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SCULPTURES ANCIENNES DU CANADA FRANCAIS

The Canadiana Gallery presents a special exhibition of early French-Canadian wood sculpture, endeavouring to show the development of this art and the relationship between religious and secular carving. With the co-operation of Mrs. Nettie M. Sharpe of Saint Lambert, Quebec, the Gallery displays for the first time examples of the work of such early Canadian masters as Jacques Leblond dit Latour (1670-1715), Philippe Liébert (1732-1804), Paul Jourdain dit Labrosse (1697-1769), the Levasseurs of the 18th century and other carvers of merit. For almost three centuries the art of wood sculpture in Canada was dominated by these French-Canadian masters and their apprentices.

Historic wood carving in Canada originated in the mid-17th century in the School of St. Joachin established by the first Bishop of Quebec, Monseigneur de Laval at Cap Tourmente, and spread westward to Quebec, Three-Rivers and Montreal. The artists used local woods, butternut, pine and oak, and decorated their work with polychrome and silver and gold leaf.

In addition to small statuettes, crucifixes and other religious objects from the Nettie M. Sharpe Collection, the exhibition includes a recently acquired collection of built-in armoire doors, dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the gift of the J. P. Bickell Foundation. The doors were originally found by Mrs. Sharpe in early stone farmhouses of the Montreal and Richelieu areas of Quebec. The collection illustrates the development of Quebec styles and taste, techniques of manufacture, and decoration of cabinet wood carving. Similar techniques and decoration were applied to the domestic furniture of the period - lozenge, diamond point, Louis XIII and XV panelling. This collection, presently unrestored, provides a vehicle for the study of the development of wood carving and its relationship with furniture. The Canadiana Department shares Mrs. Sharpe's purpose for the collection, the greater understanding of French Canada through its arts.

We are indebted to the J. P. Bickell Foundation, the Laidlaw Foundation, and the J. S. McLean Foundation for their generous gifts of outstanding examples of French-Canadian furniture; to the Art Gallery of Ontario for the loan of the Virgin and Child by Labrosse; and to the Robert Simpson Company, Simpson-Sears Company Limited, British Petroleum Limited, and the Jordan Wine Company, for making the present exhibition possible.

Canadiana Department,
Exhibition 41.

June Biggar,
Curatorial Assistant.

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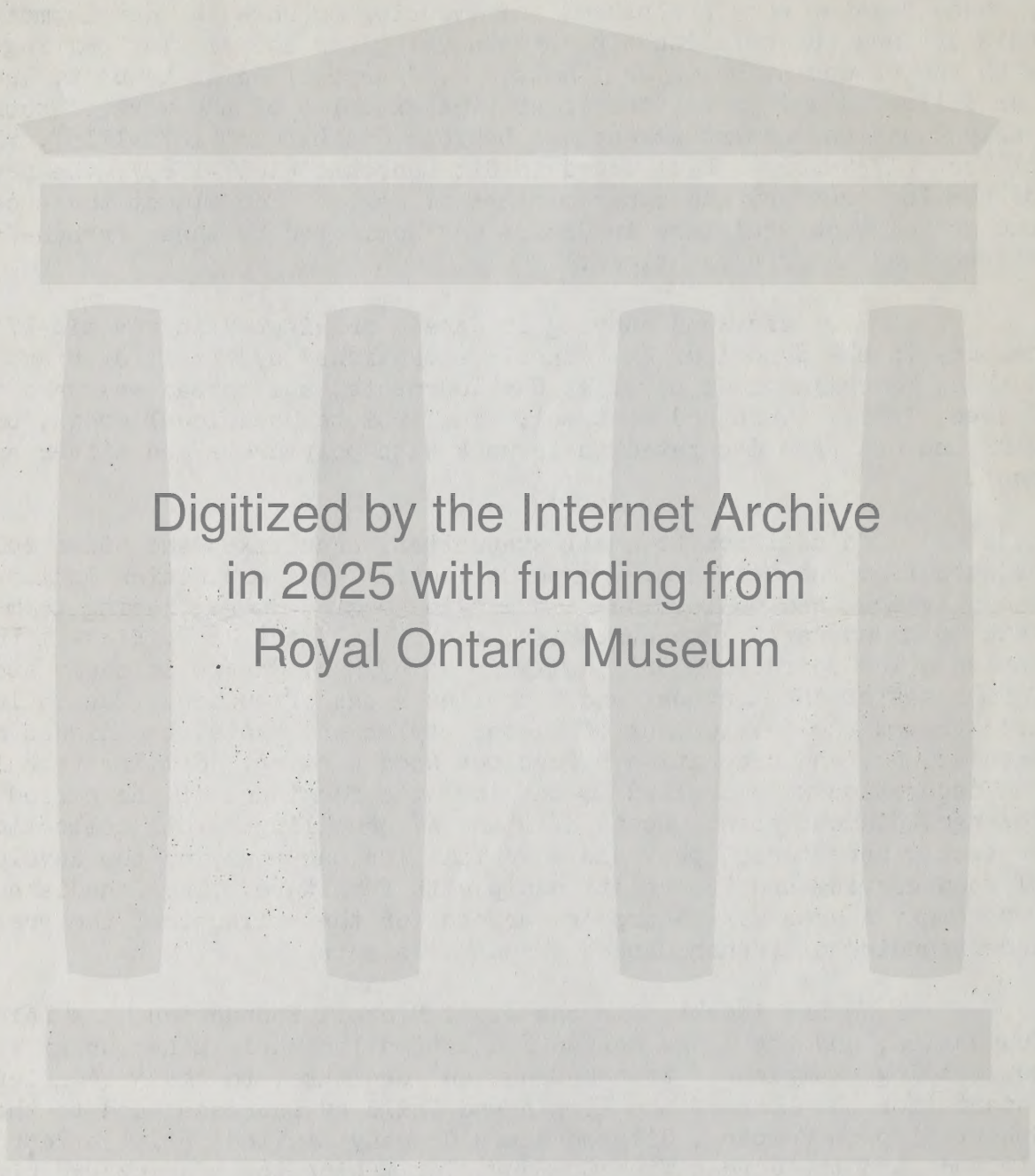

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Gift of the J. P. Bickell Foundation

1. Connecting Door with six lozenge panels in the style of Louis XIII. Late 18th century. Provenance: Saint-Augustin, Co. Portneuf. 966.210.7

2. Pair of Armoire doors in style of Louis XV; from a built-in two door armoire found at Bécancour, Co. Nicolet, Late 18th century. 966.210.8

3. Pair of built-in Armoire doors with diamond point panels in the style of Louis XIII. Late 18th century. Provenance: Côte Sainte Catherine Laprairie. 966.210.9

4. Two small doors in the provincial style of Louis XV. Late 18th century. Provenance: "Le Petit Coteau de Verchères", Co. Verchères. 966.210.10

5. Pair of Armoire doors with fan and rosette carving, from the Lavalée House dated 1815 at Calixa Lavalée, Co. Verchères. 966.210.1

6. Pair of Armoire doors in style of Louis XV with daisy and scroll carving. Circa 1815. Provenance: Calixa Lavallée, Co. Verchères. 966.210.4

7. Pair of Armoire doors in the provincial style of Louis XV with original French red paint. Late 18th century. Provenance: Range 30, Sainte-Denis-sur Richelieu. 966.210.3

8. Pair of Armoire doors in the provincial style of Louis XV in early green, black, red and mustard yellow colours. Late 18th century. Provenance: Pont Rouge, Co. Portneuf. 966.210.5

9. Pair of Armoire doors in provincial style of Louis XV with fleurs-de-lis incorporated in the scroll carving. Pine with graining. Late 18th century. Provenance: Saint Philippe de Laprairie. 966.210.6

10. Pair of Armoire doors from an armoire a deux corps in style of Louis XV with original hand-painted decoration. Circa 1775. Provenance: Chateauguay 966.210.11

11. One Armoire door in provincial style of Louis XV. Late 18th century. Provenance: Côte Sainte Catherine Laprairie 966.210.2

The Nettie M. Sharpe Collection of French Canadian Carving

12. High Altar Angel, circa 1735. Polychrome and gold leaf on wood. Paul Jourdain dit Labrosse (1697-1769) sculptor. Provenance: Eglise de Longueuil.

13. Little Mary, late 18th or early 19th century. Polychrome. Attributed to an apprentice of Levasseur of Quebec. Provenance: Les Eboulements, Co. Charlevoix.

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14. Sainte Catherine, 18th century. Gold leaf on wood. Attributed to the Levasseurs. Provenance: Sainte-Catherine, Co. Portneuf.

15. Altar Angel in Adoration, 18th century. Paint over gold leaf. Attributed to the Levasseurs. Provenance: Quebec City.

16. Peter and Paul, late 18th century. Whitewood, gold leaf, gesso and polychrome. Philippe Liebert (1732-1804) sculptor. Provenance: Sainte-Alexis, Co. Montcalm.

17. Sainte Angela, 18th century. Attributed to the Levasseurs, of Quebec. Provenance: Marieville, Co. Rouville.

18. Virgin and Child, circa 1700. Oak with polychrome and gold leaf Jacques Leblond dit Latour (1670-1715) sculptor. Provenance: Saint-Jacques, Co. Montcalm.

19. Virgin and Child, dated 1741. Pine with original paint. Provenance: Saint-Narcisse, Co. Lotbinière.

20. Virgin and Child, late 19th century. Pine with silver and gold leaf. Attributed to Louis Jobin (1845-1928) sculptor. Provenance: Vicinity of Quebec City.

21. Guardian Angel and Child, circa 1885. Henri Angers, carver. Provenance: Neuville, Co. Portneuf.

22. A Saint, 18th century. Pine with silver leaf. Paul Jourdain dit Labrosse (1697-1769) sculptor. Provenance: Church of Verchères, Co. Vercheres.

23. Pair of Candlesticks from side altar or convent chapel. Pine with silver leaf in style of Louis XIII. Quebec. 18th century.

24. Madonna and Child, dated 1711. Butternut with polychrome and gold leaf. Attributed to Ancienne Lorette Mission.

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25. Corpus of Christ from an altar crucifix. Anonymous.

26. Primitive Crucifix, dates 1885.

27. Crucifix, circa 1912. Edouard Lachappelle, carver. Provenance: Saint-Din-des-Laurentides.

28. Crucifix, circa 1840. Pine. Mr. Gariépy, carver. Provenance: Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu.

29. Primitive Crucifix of a young Christ. Anonymous.

30. Crucifix, circa 1890. Pine. Henri Angers, carver. Provenance: Neuville, Co. Portneuf.

31. Christ and the Host, 18th century. Provenance: Co. Charlevoix.

32. Crucifix, late 18th century. Mr. Guenette, carver. Provenance: Saint-Henri de Lévis.

33. Primitive Crucifix, 18th century. Provenance: Co. Charlevoix.

34. Altar Cross, mid-19th century. Pine. Nicolas Manny (1812-1883), carver. Provenance: Co. Montcalm.

35. Crucifix and Two Angels. 19th century. Pine. Provenance: Saint-Polycarpe, Co. Soulanges.

36. Crucifix. 1st quarter 20th century. Provenance: Co. Lotbinière.

37. Crucifix, 19th century. Provenance: Caughnawaga Reserve. Collection: Mr. and Mrs. John E. Langdon.

38. Crucifix, circa 1870. Pine. Attributed to Léandre Parent (1809-1889) sculptor. Collection: Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Stevens.

The Nettie M. Sharpe Collection of French Canadian Carving

39. Pair of Convent Candlesticks, in style of Louis XIII. Polychrome and silver leaf. Quebec. 18th century.

40. Ciborium, 18th century, Quebec. Basswood with original colour.

41. Ciborium, 18th century, Quebec. Basswood with silver and gold leaf. Provenance: Eglise de Saint Anselme, Co. Dorchester.

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42. Virgin and Child, mid-18th century. Pine. Paul Jourdain dit Labrosse (1697-1769). Collection: Art Gallery of Ontario.

43. Heads from a Calvary, late 19th century. Quebec. 962.199.10-12

44. Statue in wood, alleged to have been taken from the Cathedral in Quebec City. 3rd quarter 18th century. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Blue. 963.89

45. Armchair, in style of Louis XV. Birch. Late 18th century. Gift of the R. Laidlaw Lumber Company. 948.214.2

46. Arbalète-fronted Commode, in Louis XV style with original hardwood stain. Butternut. Late 18th century. Gift of the Laidlaw Foundation. 966.169

47. Armoire, carved with diamond points, Louis XIII style. Pine. Late 18th century. Gift of the J.S. McLean Foundation. 966.267

48. Serpentine-fronted Commode, with open rocaille in Quévillon manner. Louis XV style. Late 18th century. Provenance: Sainte-Geneviève de Pierrefonds, near Montreal. Gift of the Laidlaw Lumber Company 954.137

49. Armchair in the Louis XIV manner with cabriole arm supports in the Chippendale style. Quebec, 18th century. 949.102.2

50. Sideboard in Sheraton manner. Butternut with maple leaf appliques. Circa 1830. 963.202

51. Blanket Box with lion motif, carved in commemoration of the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee, 1887. Butternut. 963.201.1

52. One pair of built-in Armoire doors, from the Manor House at Les Eboulement. Late 18th century.

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